

**In the Claims:**

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A height adjustment assembly for a bicycle handlebar stem that is positioned on a steer tube of a bicycle, the height adjustment assembly comprising:
  - a) a first spacer secured to the steer tube on one side of the stem and including a first upper member and a first lower member, each of the first upper member and the first lower member including a base and a number of tabs extending outwardly from one side of the base, each of the number of tabs including a plurality of locking members positioned on the tab; and
  - b) a second spacer secured to the steer tube on the opposite side of the stem, wherein the first upper member is rotatable with respect to the first lower member to selectively engage the locking members on the first upper member with the locking members on the first lower member in various configurations, wherein each of the tabs has a sloped surface extending from the upper end to the lower end, and wherein the plurality of locking members are disposed on the sloping surface.
2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the base is generally circular in shape.
3. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the number of tabs is positioned in an abutting relationship with one another around the base.

4. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein each of the number of tabs has an upper end and a lower end.
5. Previously cancelled.
6. Previously cancelled.
7. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the plurality of locking members are formed as a number of teeth extending from each of the number of tabs opposite the base.
8. (Original) The assembly of claim 7 further comprising a plurality of grooves disposed between adjacent pairs of the number of teeth.
9. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein one of the first upper member or the first lower member is adapted to be fixedly attached to the steer tube.
10. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the second spacer is formed of a second upper member and a second lower member, each of the second upper member and the second lower member including a base and a number of tabs extending outwardly from one side of the base, each of the number of tabs including a plurality of locking members positioned on the tab.
11. (Original) The assembly of claim 10 wherein one of the second upper member and the second lower member is adapted to be fixedly attached to the steer tube.

12. Previously cancelled.

13. (Currently Amended) A handlebar assembly for a steer tube of a bicycle, the assembly comprising:

- a) a first spacer secured~~able~~ to the steer tube on one side of ~~the~~ a handlebar stem on the bicycle and including a first upper member and a first lower member, each of the first upper member and the first lower member including a base and a number of tabs extending outwardly from one side of the base, each of the number of tabs including a plurality of locking members positioned on a sloped surface of the tab, the locking members on the first upper member configured to engage the locking members on the first lower member;
  - b) a second spacer positioned on the steer tube on the opposite side of the stem; and
  - c) a the handlebar stem being releasably secured to the steer tube between the first spacer and the second spacer,
- wherein the first upper member is configured to rotate with respect to the first lower member of the first spacer,
- wherein rotation of the lower member relative to the upper member causes variable adjustment of a selected width of the first spacer, and wherein the one or more of the plurality of locking members of the first lower member selectively interlocks with

one or more of the plurality of locking members of the first upper member so as to secure the first spacer at the selected width.

14. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 13 wherein the second spacer comprises a second upper member and a second lower member, each of the second upper member and the second lower member including a base and a number of tabs extending outwardly from one side of the base, each of the number of tabs including a plurality of locking members positioned on the tab, the locking members on the second upper member configured to engage the locking members on the second lower member.

15. (Original) The assembly of claim 14 wherein the first upper member and the second lower member abut opposite sides of the stem.

16. (Original) The assembly of claim 15 wherein the first lower member and second upper members are adapted to be fixedly attached to the steer tube.

17. (Previously withdrawn) A method for adjusting the height of a handlebar stem secured to a steer tube, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a stem releasably securable to the steer tube;
- b) providing a stem height adjustment assembly including a first spacer securable to the steer tube on one side of the stem and including a first upper member and a first lower member, each of the first upper member and the first lower member including a base and a number of tabs extending outwardly from one side of the base, each of the

number of tabs including a plurality of locking members positioned on the tab, the locking members on the first upper member engageable with the locking members on the first lower member, and a second spacer;

- c) securing the first spacer and the second spacer to the steer tube;
- d) adjusting the height of the first spacer; and
- e) securing the stem to the steer tube between the first spacer and the second spacer.

18. (Previously withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of adjusting the height of the first spacer comprises the steps of:

- a) separating the first upper member from the first lower member;
- b) rotating one of the first upper member or the first lower member with respect to the steer tube; and
- c) engaging the first upper member with the first lower member.

19. (Previously withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein the second spacer includes a second upper member and a second lower member, each of the second upper member and second lower member including a base and a number of tabs extending outwardly from one side of the base, each of the number of tabs including a plurality of locking members positioned on the tab, the locking members on the second upper member engageable with the locking members on the second lower member, and further comprising the steps of:

- a) separating the second upper member from the second lower member after adjusting the height of the first spacer;
- b) rotating one of the second upper member or the second lower member with regard to the steer tube; and
- c) engaging the second upper member with the second lower member.

20. (Previously withdrawn) The method of claim 19 wherein the steps of adjusting the height of the first spacer and engaging the second upper member with the second lower member are performed such that the distance between the first spacer and the second spacer is held constant.

21. (Currently amended) A height adjustment assembly for a bicycle handlebar stem that is positioned on a steer tube of a bicycle, the height adjustment assembly comprising:

- a) a first spacer mounted to the steer tube on one side of the stem and including a first upper member and a first lower member, each of the first upper member and the first lower member including a base and a number of tabs extending outwardly from the base, each of the number of tabs including a wide end and a narrow end that define a sloped surface therebetween, the sloped surface including a plurality of locking members located therealong in a stepped configuration relative to the base; and

b) a second spacer mounted to the steer tube on the opposite side of the stem, wherein rotation of the lower member relative to the upper member causes variable adjustment of a selected width of the first spacer, wherein at a collapsed condition of the first spacer, all of the locking members of the first upper member are engaged with all of the locking members of the first lower member, and wherein at an extended position of the first spacer having a width that is greater than the width when the first spacer is in ~~relative to~~ the collapsed condition ~~of the first spacer, and~~ less than all of the locking members of the first upper member are engaged with the locking members of the first lower member of the first spacer.

22. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 21 wherein the plurality of locking members are located in a step-like configuration on a the sloped surface of each of the number of tabs relative to the base.

23. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of locking members include rounded teeth with a groove therebetween to configured to receive one of the plurality of rounded teeth.

24. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the plurality of locking members are located in a stepped configuration on the sloped surface of each of the number of tabs.